

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Harlan-Wilson Mill site

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

North of Leeds on west bank of the Little Elk Creek

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Leeds

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Cecil

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Blandale, Inc.

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Cecil County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☒ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Harlan Wilson Mill was a large stone mill which was completely destroyed in the 1960's by dynamite in order that the stones could be used for building purposes. The original mill was built about 1811 by John Wilson who left the Cecil Manufacturing Mill. He established a woolen mill but ran into financial problems. John Harlan purchased the Mill and ran a Cotton Mill on this site until a fire sometime about 1828. The mill was rebuilt and match box paper was manufactured here. His sons George and John specialized in book binders paste board in the late 1800's.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE****PERIOD**

☐ PREHISTORIC  
☐ 1400-1499  
☐ 1500-1599  
☐ 1600-1699  
☐ 1700-1799  
☐ 1800-1899  
☒ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC  
☐ AGRICULTURE  
☐ ARCHITECTURE  
☐ ART  
☐ COMMERCE  
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING  
☐ CONSERVATION  
☐ ECONOMICS  
☐ EDUCATION  
☐ ENGINEERING  
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
☒ INDUSTRY  
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
☐ LAW  
☐ LITERATURE  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSIC  
☐ PHILOSOPHY  
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION  
☐ SCIENCE  
☐ SCULPTURE  
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN  
☐ THEATER  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

**SPECIFIC DATES****BUILDER/ARCHITECT****STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This mill site is one of many that contributed to the growth of industry in the Little Elk Creek Valley. It's history certainly shows the changes and development of American industry.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George W. Lutz, III Field Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Cecil Historical Trust, Inc.

January 1977

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

RD 2

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Rising Sun

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

CE-652  
Harlan-Wilson Mill, site  
Leeds

McGrain, John (2006) *The Molinography of Maryland*. (Maryland State Archives)

### HARLAN MILL (3)

John Harlan came to Maryland in 1837 and bought a cotton mill built by John Wilson in 1811 and built a match-box paper mill, CCM, p. 75. He also continued cotton production. His sons, George Fisler Harlan and John Harlan produced bookbinder's pasteboard on the same site as their father's mill, CCM, p. 75.

The brothers were born at Doe Run in Chester County, Pa., according to the 1877 county atlas patron list. They formed a partnership in 1872 and purchased a mill from Benjamin Peterman. The *Baltimore American*, October 8, 1877, in an article entitled, "The Late Storm," reported that the dam was washed out at Harlan & Brother in the flood on Little Elk.

The 1880 census of manufactures listed Harlan and Brother with \$10,000 capital investment, listing 6 employees and a 270-ton output of binder's board (\$14,000). A 14-foot fall on Little Elk drove a 30 hp, 30-inch, iron Leffel wheel at 165 rpm. There was also a 12 hp steam engine.

Under "tub engines," the census of manufactures listed two beaters with 32-inch long roll bars and 36-inch diameter rolls of 450 lb maximum capacity. Also two cylinder-type paper machines 72 and 42 inches wide.

After the death of John Harlan in 1902, the business was continued by Thomas B. Miller as manager. The *Baltimore News*, January 14, 1911, reported, "Paper Mill at Leeds Destroyed by Fire." The text was as follows: "Elkton, Md. Jan. 14 - The Harlan paper mill located at Leeds, Cecil County, operated by Register of Wills Thomas B. Miller, was destroyed by fire shortly after midnight. The fire started in the drying room and gained such headway that the entire plant was soon a wreck. The loss is estimated at \$13,000, which is partly covered by insurance. The mill was a stone structure and was one of the oldest of the kind in the country."

The plant was abandoned. The Historical Society of Cecil County owns a photo of the mill prior to its ruin. The location was on the B. & O. Railroad branch on Little Elk Creek near Leeds. Grid location in the ADC Street Atlas was 6-F-10.

Tyler Bastian, State Archaeologist, produced a report on the "Harlan Mill Steatite Quarry" describing Indian artifacts, published in *Inksheds* of the Archaeology Society of Delaware, 1971. The MHT Site No. for the Harlan-Wilson Site is CE-552.

CE-652

Harlan-Wilson Mill Site

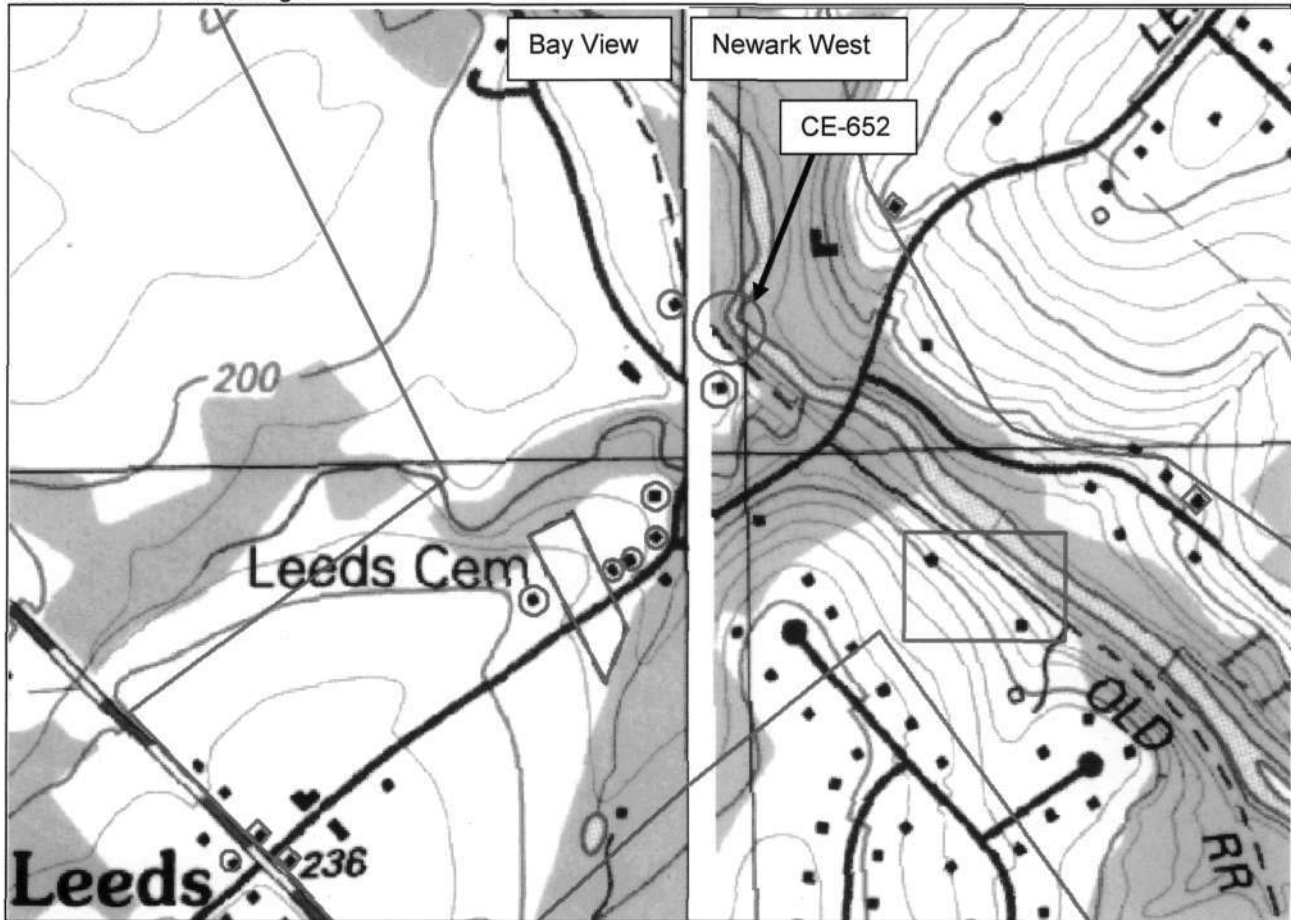
Martenet's Map of Cecil County, Maryland, Simon J. Martenet, 1868



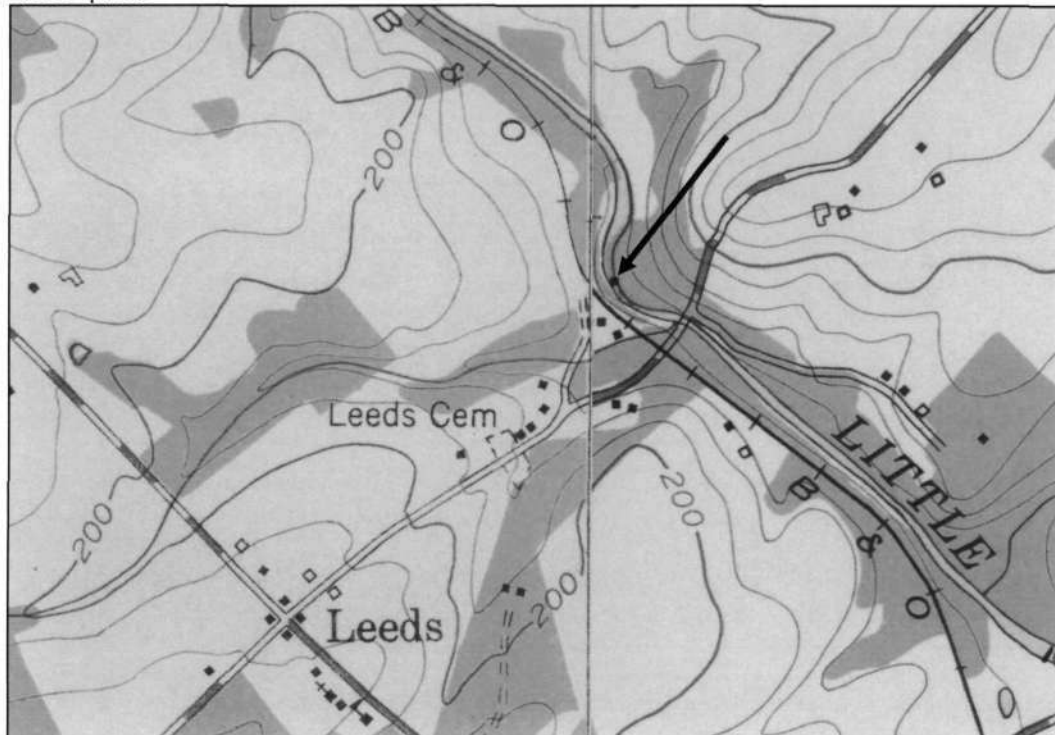
Atlas of Cecil County, Maryland, Lake, Griffing & Stevenson, 1877



CE-652  
Harlan-Wilson Mill Site  
Newark West Quadrangle



1953 quads









CE-652  
Hartans Mill before it burned  
from an old photo.

Courtesy of Old Creek Preservation  
Soc.